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Testimony presented to the **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

IN SUPPORT OF SB. No. 6377 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS PREEMPTION.

by Robert T. Crook, Director

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Establish the authority of the Legislature by statute to inform/preclude municipalities from writing local firearms ordinances inconsistent with state law.

Municipal Ordinances or Regulations is a matter of Preemption which has innumerable precedents in law. The standard in virtually all court cases is: The town is a creature of the state and may not restrict what the state allows. Or "when a statute and an ordinance deal with a matter of state-wide concern and they conflict, the statute prevails regardless of the provisions of the special act."

It is clear to allow any town to create separate gun laws creates a chaotic "Balkanization" of state efforts to police and control the issue. Concerning firearms, there is no room in the state scheme for local ordinances/regulations. With the plethora of statutory gun laws, it is patently clear the State "has filled the field". Since any local ordinance can affect unaware gunowners from other than that locale who are aware of state statutes/regulations, but not local ordinances - this is a matter of state-wide interest. And this bill will preclude arrests and subsequent court cases.

Firearms – Town Property: Firearms Ordinances 231-3 of the Ordinances of the Town of **Woodbridge** shall be revised to read: "No hunting or target shooting or any other activity involving the discharge of any firearm, air gun, air rifle, crossbow, longbow or other weapon shall be permitted on any town-owned property or within **500 yards** of any Town-owned property. The possession of any loaded firearm, air gun, air rifle, crossbow, longbow or other weapon shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section." **In conflict with this statute:** 29-28(e) The issuance of any permit to carry a pistol or revolver does not thereby authorize the possession or carrying of a pistol or revolver in any premises where the possession or carrying of a pistol or revolver is otherwise prohibited by law or is prohibited by the person who owns or exercises control over such premises.

New Britain: Firearms ordinances have not changed since 1970. Gunowners are confused since the ordinance states Concealed firearms cannot be carried in the town.

Tolland: "Discharge of Firearms. (a) No minor under 16 years of age, shall discharge any firearm air rifle or air pistol within the limits of the town, unless such discharge shall be in the presence and under the supervision of an adult (21 years of age or older) or of the parent or legal guardian of such minor, or a qualified instructor or an authorized range." **In conflict with this statute:** Sec. 53-206. Carrying of dangerous weapons prohibited. (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (b)(5) the carrying of a BB. gun by any person taking part in a supervised event or competition of the Boy Scouts of America or the Girl Scouts of America or in any other authorized event or competition while taking part in such event or competition or while transporting such weapon to or from such event or competition; and (6) the carrying of a BB. gun by any person upon such person's own property or the property of another person provided such other person has authorized the carrying of such weapon on such property, and the transporting of such weapon to or from such property.

There are many other examples.

We urge passage.